

CERCA Minutes

July 11, 2006

10:00—11:30

St. Augustine's Catholic Church

Present: Georgia Smith, Chesterfield Police Support; Paz Ochs, City of Richmond HLO; Peter Vonderlippe, Sanchita Dascupta, and Tom Lowrie, American Red Cross; Shannon Freeman, Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; Theodore Brown, Boy Scouts; Maria Yancey, Fidel Rubio, Chesterfield Health Dept.; Davis Henderson, United Methodist Church; Linda Jackson Cole, Ann Vargo, Chesterfield Cooperative Extension

Introductions: Ann introduced the two speakers—Tom Lowrie, CEO American Red Cross (Richmond Chapter) and Shannon Freeman, Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund.

Tom Lowrie's presentation focused on the Red Cross's Community Partners Program. This program allows the Red Cross the ability to formalize community connections that the Red Cross has been forming during the past several years. It will allow a way to help neighborhoods build up community resources.

The Coalition discussed the need to have resident contacts in communities. These individuals can provide information and resources to members of that community, especially in case of emergencies. Getting volunteers can be challenging, Georgia Smith, Chesterfield Police, reported due to paperwork and background checks that often need to be done.

Shannon Freeman then presented information on the services provided through Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. This agency is actually a part of the Worker's Compensation Office. Shannon spoke on how her organization is able to provide assistance to someone who has been an innocent victim of a crime.

Ann Vargo, discussed the need to develop a plan for phasing out of the Dupont Village as the Coalition proceeds to expand into other apartment communities.

Ann suggested that the apartment currently being used for programming at Dupont Village Apartments, be vacated. Ted Brown, Boy Scouts, responded that the apartment is needed for the Cub Scout and Boy Scout groups that are meeting there every Monday and Thursday. Ann and Ted will meet to further discuss this.

Amendment: Ann and Ted met prior to these minutes being completed. At this time, CERCA will continue to maintain the apartment at Dupont Village. Ann will stop doing a daily afternoon program but will continue to develop resources for the families of Dupont Village through home visits and classes for adults and youth.

The next CERCA meeting will be held at St. Augustine's on Tuesday, September 12 from 1:30—3:00.